

THE MORNING NEWS

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A final rotunda lighting is a delightful showcase of San Nicolas culture



SAN NICOLAS -- The month of December has been filled with the recent island tradition of beautifully decorating all the traffic rotundas with seasonal themes. The project was initiated by Bo Barrio (Your Neighborhood) and realized with a number of commercial and community entities donating their creativity, materials and labor.

The last of them, the Lago Heights rotunda, adjacent to the Essoville gas station, was lit on Monday evening, December 16. It was a community effort by a group calling themselves The Cheezy Boys Crew "We ain't good looking but we looking good." Joining them in lighting up the neighborhood were D21 Nightclub, Power FM 101.7, and Minister of Economic Affairs, Communications, Energy and Environment, Mike de Meza, who had the actual honor of flipping the

switch and turning on the holiday lights.

Aruba has many rotundas, and the gala lighting ceremonies that have taken place through the month are usually accompanied by performances of local Gaita bands. This is a style of music originating in Zulia Province, Venezuela, but a beloved aspect of the holiday season on Aruba.

San Nicolas, however, has always had its own particular style, strongly reflecting the multi-cultural makeup of the community. Bands originating in the neighborhood, such as The Failures, brought their own highly singular style to the festivities, making the lighting of the final rotunda on Aruba a truly unique experience.

Many gathered to bathe in the pleasant spirit of the season, and with the flick of the switch, sharing of local treats

and several beers, celebrate this congenial time of year.

(More photo coverage on pg 2)

By Rosalie Klein

Internet chieftains press Obama over NSA spy swoops

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Bosses from Internet giants including Twitter and Facebook Tuesday pressed President Barack Obama for reforms of US spy agency snooping, adding to rising heat from the courts and American allies.

Obama met a group of the country's most iconic Silicon Valley firms and spent two hours discussing the National Security Agency's clandestine electronic data mining operation, known as PRISM, a participant in the meeting said.

The Internet company bosses fear that NSA operations have crossed constitutional lines and infringe the privacy of their customers and users in the United States and abroad and could also impact their economic bottom lines.

"We appreciated the opportunity to share directly with the President our principles on government surveillance," said a representative of the companies after the meeting ended.

"We urge him to move aggressively on reform."

Eight leading US-based technology companies last week called on Washington to overhaul its surveillance laws following revelations of online eavesdropping.

"The balance in many countries has tipped too far in favor of the state and away from the rights of the individual -- rights that are enshrined in our Constitution," they wrote in an open letter to Obama.

The meeting came a day after a US court ruled that the National Security Agency's bulk collection of telephone records was probably unconstitutional, in the first blow of a long legal tussle over the program.

It also took place as Obama considers the findings of an intelligence review panel he set up to recommend reform of spy agency snooping in the wake of revelations by fugitive intelligence analyst Edward Snowden.

The meeting, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, was closed to the reporters and Obama made no public remarks. Press photographers were allowed into the room for less than a minute.

Colegio Arubano Oranjestad are the winners of Aruba Bank's Good4TheNeighborhood project



Aruba Bank announced the winning school of its 'Good4TheNeighborhood 2013' project, in full view of a very festive crowd. "Trials for Life," created by Colegio Arubano Oranjestad, won the main prize of Awg 10,000.-; while second place went to the Centro di Barrio Brazil project, created by Filomena College Mavo, who won Awg 5,000.-. Third place went to the Family Planning project by Mon Plaisir College, who won Awg 2,500.-, and finally, fourth place winner, the Barrio di San Nicolaas project by Colegio San Augustin, won Awg 1,500.-. (See story on pg 4)



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A final rotunda lighting is a delightful showcase of San Nicolas culture



Dutch Finance Secretary of State ready to cooperate with Aruba



Aruba's Minister of Finance Juan Irausquin (L) and Dutch Finance Sec. of State Frans Weekers

ORANJESTAD -- Just recently, Dutch Finance Secretary of State, Frans Weekers met with Aruba's Minister of Finance Juan David Yrausquin where different financial matters were discussed with the Aruban Minister.

Weekers have just returned from Curacao where he finalized a pending Import Duty Treaty for the Dutch Kingdom. It is the wish of The Netherlands for this same treaty to be applicable for Aruba as well.

"There are a few points in this treaty that must be discussed, but it was agreed that this should be finalized within the next months. Yrausquin explained that Aruba has a standing agreement with The Netherlands, however, the discussion is

whether we want to maintain or adapt this to benefit Aruba's import duty regulation. Our goal is to avoid collecting citizens double import duty, so both in Aruba and in The Netherlands. Also, how to improve commerce in and outside of the Kingdom by means of import duty and regulations," said Min. Irausquin.

"The Netherlands has much expertise with respect to treaties compared to other countries around the world. Their expertise can help Aruba, hence they explored the possibility for Aruba to benefit from their knowledge and if possible to reach agreements together with The Netherlands on treaties with other countries.

Continued on pg 3



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SOBEK system to be tested in Aruban waters by TNO

ORANJESTAD -- Everything living and moving under the water produces a sound and each sound has a "signature" which forms the basis for detecting what it is. The sound may be coming from a human diver, a fish, a boat, or even a coral, they all have an "acoustic signature" which can be measured, interpreted and programmed by a system called SOBEK which can detect and distinguish these sounds, according to Martijn Clarijs of TNO.

Clarijs is the person in charge at TNO for the development of solutions regarding "waterside security." Clarijs is currently on Aruba with this equipment to measure under water sounds around the cruise wharf and to install the SOBEK system which will be tested in Aruba on Monday. The system has



Martijn Clarijs

been tested in Holland, but this will be the first time it will be applied in exotic waters, says Martijn Clarijs.

The technology is not yet completed but is in full development, according to Clarijs. TNO is the institution of applied science in Holland with an office in Aruba. TNO develops systems to be tested, but does not produce these for sale. For the commercialization of the SOBEK system, TNO is in contact with industrial partners who are interested in producing the system when the project is finished. Clarijs indicated that within a few years SOBEK may be on the market.

TNO is pleased with the involvement of the Aruba Ports Authority (APA) and their interest in the security of the wharf concerning the wa-

ters. According to Clarijs, what we have internationally for water security along the wharfs is nothing but a list of recommendations, there is no obligation, such as is the case in "landside" matters.

With respect to "on land" issues, APA has all security measures covered, which includes walls, gates, special badges for those authorized to be in the protected areas and security agents at strategic points. These are all regulated by ISPS. Aruba wants to take it a step further and as indicated by interim director of APA, Humphrey Tromp, there is no actual threat, but we want to think ahead, before something happens.

Clarijs indicated that there is neither incentive nor legal obligation, but there may be in the future and APA has shown interest in being proactive and to work on "waterside security." They do not want to wait until something happens internationally to introduce regulation.

There are currently solutions for "waterside security" on the market, but these are focused on "defense wharfs", or the defense industry and applications for defense. These are extremely costly, and not attractive for use in commercial wharfs. And this is the opportunity that TNO saw where they can develop a system at a reasonable price that can detect intruders on wharfs via the water side.

Dutch Finance Secretary of State...

Continued from pg 2

The Dutch Secretary of State was very open to discuss these possibilities. We can learn from each other..."

The Netherlands has always provided Aruba with technical support with respect to Taxes, Customs and Finances. Weekers assured the Aruban Minister that Holland is committed

to offering whatever support necessary. At the end of his visit, Weekers assured that his visit had absolutely nothing to do with controlling Aruba's financial situation, as is the case with Curacao and St. Maarten. Aruba is completely free in her financial decisions and other matters.



Combat Dengue

Keep around your house and yard clean

Holiday Menu

Ar. 55
Tax & Service Charge not included

30.55
Tax & Service Charge not included

Appetizer (Choose one)

Seafood Tempura, Shrimp Cocktail Ahoy, Fried Calamari with Marinara Sauce, Fruits of the Seven Seas, Escargot Bourguignon, Mushroom on a Deck, Pirates Treasure Soup

Appetizer Menu (Choose one)

HOLIDAY PLATTER
Holiday Baked Ham, Roast Turkey served with traditional favorites, cranberry sauce, mashed potato & brown gravy, green beans almondine and herbed stuffing. Let the celebration begin!

LAND AND SEA DELIGHT
A duo of Chicken Florentine & grilled fresh catch of the day topped with seafood medley

STEAK LOVERS
Beef Tenderloin with mushroom sauce, stuffed potato and sautéed vegetables

ALBERTO'S FRESH CATCH
Fish à la Meunière served with wild rice & green beans almondine

SEAFOOD TRIO
A perfect combination of shrimps scampi, grilled scallops and fried calamari served with wild rice and fresh vegetable

STUFFED PORKLOIN D'ANGELO
Roasted herb stuffed porkloin served with loaded potato, fresh vegetable and herbed brown gravy

CHEF SPECIAL
Chicken Piccata with spinach and topped with artichoke sauce, served wild rice and green beans almondine

Dessert
Home made Holiday Dessert
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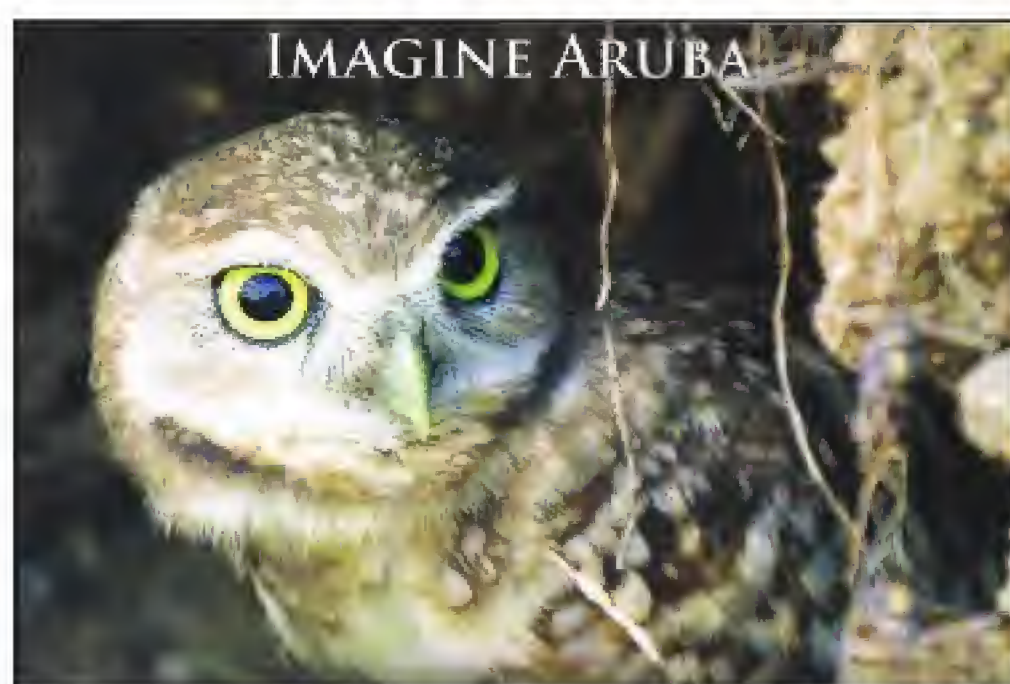
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Aruba Bird Calendar 2014 available now!



Calendar cover featuring the "Shoco"

ORANJESTAD -- For the sixth consecutive year, Aruba Birdlife Conservation has published its new Aruba Bird Calendar. The Minister of Environment and Nature Affairs, Mike de Meza, as well as the Minister of Education, Michelle Hooijboer-Winklaar, attended the ceremony and assisted in launching the calendar. Many of Aruba's nature lovers also attended the ceremony. Aruba Birdlife Conservation is a foundation which tries to protect and preserve Aruba's bird wildlife in a broad scope of areas.

There are 238 species of birds registered in Aruba and the number is increasing! Two thirds are migratory birds. Aruba is unique in the world in the sense that no less than ten species of terns breed in Aruba.

Two endemic sub-species, Aruba's Burrowing Owl (Shoco) and the Brown-throated Parakeet (Prikichi) are decreasing in numbers and need special attention.

To date, bird wildlife in Aruba is not protected and Aruba Birdlife Conservation is pushing for the required legislation to be ready in 2014.

Aruba Birdlife Conservation is grateful to AIG and Mr. Prakash Gupta and his team for the sponsorship of the calendar.

Many tourists take home one or more bird calendars with them every year. The calendars are available for 12,50 florin at the Huchada Bakery at the Certified Mega Mall. All funds go to the foundation.

Colegio Arubano Oranjestad are the winners of Aruba Bank's Good4TheNeighborhood project

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"Trials for Life," created by Colegio Arubano Oranjestad, won the main prize of Awg 10,000.-; while second place went to the Centro di Bario Brazil project, created by Filomena College Mavo, who won Awg 5,000.-. Third place went to the Family Planning project by Mon Plaisir College, who won Awg 2,500.-, and finally, fourth place winner, the Bario di San Nicolaas project by Colegio San Augustin, won Awg 1,500.-. During the evening at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall each school's team prepared a presentation and an overview of their project.

The atmosphere at Palm Beach Plaza Mall was highly charged, and the enthusiasm and joy demonstrated by each of the participating schools, contagious. The crowd was anxious to hear the results, announcing the winning school, while they enjoyed DJ Nutzbeatz' music. The Aruba Bank's team and other representatives held a discourse with each school, and was thrilled with the experiences that each of the students had to report, and the lessons they learned. After all, the 'Good4TheNeighborhood 2013' project was designed as an educational project and helps create awareness of social responsibilities among students.

In conjunction with the 'Good4TheNeighborhood 2013' project, Aruba Bank organized a campaign on its



Facebook page, offering the chance to win an 'Apple Combo,' which consisted of a Macbook Pro 15", iPad Air and an iPhone 5s. During the celebration, the 'Apple Combo' was handed over to its happy winner, Daniel Every. Aruba Bank would like to congratulate Daniel and hopes that he will be able to make good use of his prize.

dynamic 'Good4TheNeighborhood 2013' team, would like to thank Colegio Arubano, Filomena College Mavo, Mon Plaisir College and also Colegio San Augustin for their participation, especially the students, teachers and the coordinators at Aruba Bank who made the wonderful projects possible. Aruba Bank would also like

to thank the businesses and foundations, the local press and its colleagues who cooperated with the schools so that they could execute their projects and thereby contribute to our community. A special thank-you also goes to Palm



Each and every social responsibility project, on its own, was very well executed. All schools, students, teachers and coordinators dedicated 100% of themselves to the project of their choice. The 'Good4TheNeighborhood 2013' was definitely a success again. It was very difficult for the 7 judges to choose the ultimate winning school this year.

Aruba Bank and its entire

Beach Plaza Mall for offering to host the grand final event, on the mall's plaza. A thank you goes to the entire community of Aruba, for the support and appreciation it offered at the conclusion of yet another successful 'Good4TheNeighborhood 2013' project, by Aruba Bank. Stand by for the announcement of the next social responsibility project in 2014.

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Aruba's Weather Update!

WEATHER PROGNOSTIC VALID TILL
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON 5:00 PM

DECEMBER 18,
2013



COMPILED:
TUESDAY DECEMBER 17
2013 17:10 (21:00 UTC)

WEATHER:

PARTLY CLOUDY WITH A
SLIGHT CHANCE OF A BRIEF PASSING SHOWER.
MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE -- CENTIGRADE Y MINIMUM
TEMPERATURE -- CENTIGRADE.

SUNRISE 06:55 AM SUNSET 06:19 PM.

WIND:

FRESH TO STRONG EASTERLY BREEZE WITH AN AV-
ERAGE OF 19 KTS GUSTING TO 30 KTS.

GENERAL SITUATION:

A SURFACE HIGH PRESSURE WILL GENERATE A MOD-
ERATE TO BRISK WIND FLOW ACROSS THE REGION
FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

POCKETS OF MOISTURE EMBEDDED IN THE WIND
FLOW COULD TRIGGER FEW PASSING SHOWERS
ACROSS THE SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN ISLANDS.

MARINE CONDITIONS:

WAVE DIRECCION WILL BE EAST-NORTHEAST WITH
WAVE-HEIGHTS BETWEEN 5 TO 10 FEET.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE WEEK:

A CHANCE OF A BRIEF PASSING SHOWER POSSIBLE
THROUGH THE WEEK.

WINDSPEED WILL STAY STRONG, AFTERWARDS BE-
COMING A TAB LESS IN THE MIDDLE OF WEEK.

TEMPERATURE WILL FLUCTUATE AROUND NORMAL.

OBSERVED TEMPERATURE (CENTIGRADE) AND RAIN- FALL (MM) IN THE LAST 24 HOURS:

AIRPORT MAX 31 / MIN 27 / 0.00

HADICURARI MAX 29 / MIN 27 / 0.00

Bidding soars for painting by Trayvon Martin shooter

WASHINGTON (AFP) -
Bidding for a painting by
George Zimmerman, whose
2012 killing of black youth
Trayvon Martin sparked na-
tional outrage, neared
\$100,000 on Tuesday in an
online auction that ends Sun-
day.

The signed patriotic blue-
hued portrayal of the Stars
and Stripes flag is overlayed
with the words "God, One
Country, with Liberty and
Justice for All" in typewriter
font.

"First hand painted art-
work by me, George Zim-
merman," he wrote on eBay,
where the highest bid stood at
\$99,966 -- way above Mon-
day's starting price of 99
cents plus \$40 for "expedited
shipping."

"Everyone has been ask-
ing what I have been doing
with myself. I found a cre-
ative, way to express myself,
my emotions and the symbols
that represent my experi-
ences," he said.

"My art work allows me to
reflect, providing a therapeu-
tic outlet and allows me to re-
main indoors," he added with
a smiley at the end of the sen-
tence.

Said by his lawyers to be
deep in debt, Zimmerman
noted on his eBay listing that
he created his debut canvas
using house paint donated by
a friend.

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(Includes: 2-pc funchi, fried plantains french fries, tartar sauce & pickled onions)	
Calco "Conch" in Creole or garlic sauce	US\$ 21.70 AFIs. 38.00
(Includes: Rice, coleslaw, french fries & fried plantain)	
Panfried Lobster 6 oz.	US\$ 20.00 AFIs. 35.00
(Includes: Rice, coleslaw, french fries & fried plantain)	
Special Plates	
Chicken Sate	US\$ 10.85 AFIs. 19.00
(Includes: french fries & peanut sauce)	
Fillet Mignon 6 oz (Angus)	US\$ 18.30 AFIs. 32.00
(Includes: Rice, coleslaw french fries & fried plantain)	
Extra side orders US\$ 3.00 AFIs. 5.00	
(Rice, coleslaw, french fries, fried plantain)	
<p>Ask for the Soup of the Day</p>	
<p>Italiestraat # 50 (Orange Plaza) Closed on Mondays</p>	

US reviewing Indian diplomat's arrest

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The
United States is reviewing
the circumstances surround-
ing the arrest in New York of
an Indian diplomat, a US of-
ficial said Tuesday, seeking
to defuse a growing row with
New Delhi.

India has launched a series
of reprisals against US diplo-
mats in the country after last
week's arrest of its deputy
consul general, Devyani
Khobragade, which it de-
nounced as "humiliating."

State Department deputy
spokeswoman Marie Harf ac-
knowledged it was a "sensi-
tive issue" but insisted it was
a "separate and isolated inci-
dent" which should not "be
tied together" and allowed to
affect broader close US-In-
dian ties.

Khobragade was arrested
after dropping her children off
at school for allegedly under-
paying her domestic helper,
who is also an Indian na-
tional, and for lying on the
helper's visa application form.

Harf confirmed that she
had been arrested by the State
Department's diplomatic se-
-

curity office, but had then
been handed to local law en-
forcement officials and the
US Marshal service which
had been responsible for pro-
cessing her case at the federal
courthouse.

In the escalating row over
the arrest, the Indian govern-
ment Tuesday ordered a
range of measures including
the return of identity cards for
US consular officials that
speed up travel into and
through India, Indian foreign
ministry sources said.

Indian security forces also
removed barricades outside
the US embassy in New
Delhi, raising fears for the
safety of personnel.

Harf urged the Indian gov-
ernment to uphold all its ob-
ligations to protect US
diplomats in the country.

"Obviously the safety and
security of our diplomats and
consular officers in the field
is a top priority. We'll con-
tinue to work with India to
ensure that all of our diplo-
mats and consular officers are
being afforded full rights and
protections," she said.

Canadian says will give away Can\$40 mln jackpot

MONTREAL (AFP) - A
Canadian retiree pledged
Tuesday to give away a
Can\$40-million (\$37 million
USD) lottery prize to charity,
telling Canada's public
broadcaster that he doesn't
need the money.

"I've been fortunate
enough, through my career,
44 years with a company. I
did very well for myself. I've

done enough that I can look
after myself, for my kids, so
they can get looked after into
the future. I don't really need
that money," Tom Crist told
the Canadian Broadcasting
Corporation.

The Calgary, Alberta resi-
dent retired as chief executive
of an electrical wholesale
company in September, four
months after learning from

lotteries officials that he had
won the jackpot.

Crist had been golfing in
California when he got the
call.

He waited until now to
claim the jackpot because at
the time, he told the CBC, "I
just didn't know how to deal
with it."

"As soon as I hung up
from my cellphone call from
Western Canada Lottery I
never thought about it. We
finished our lunch, we went
out golfing. I've kept it a se-
cret, even my kids didn't
know until today," he said.

The funds, he said, will be
rolled into a trust fund and
doled out to charities chosen
by himself and his children
over the coming years, in
memory of his wife who died
of cancer two years ago.

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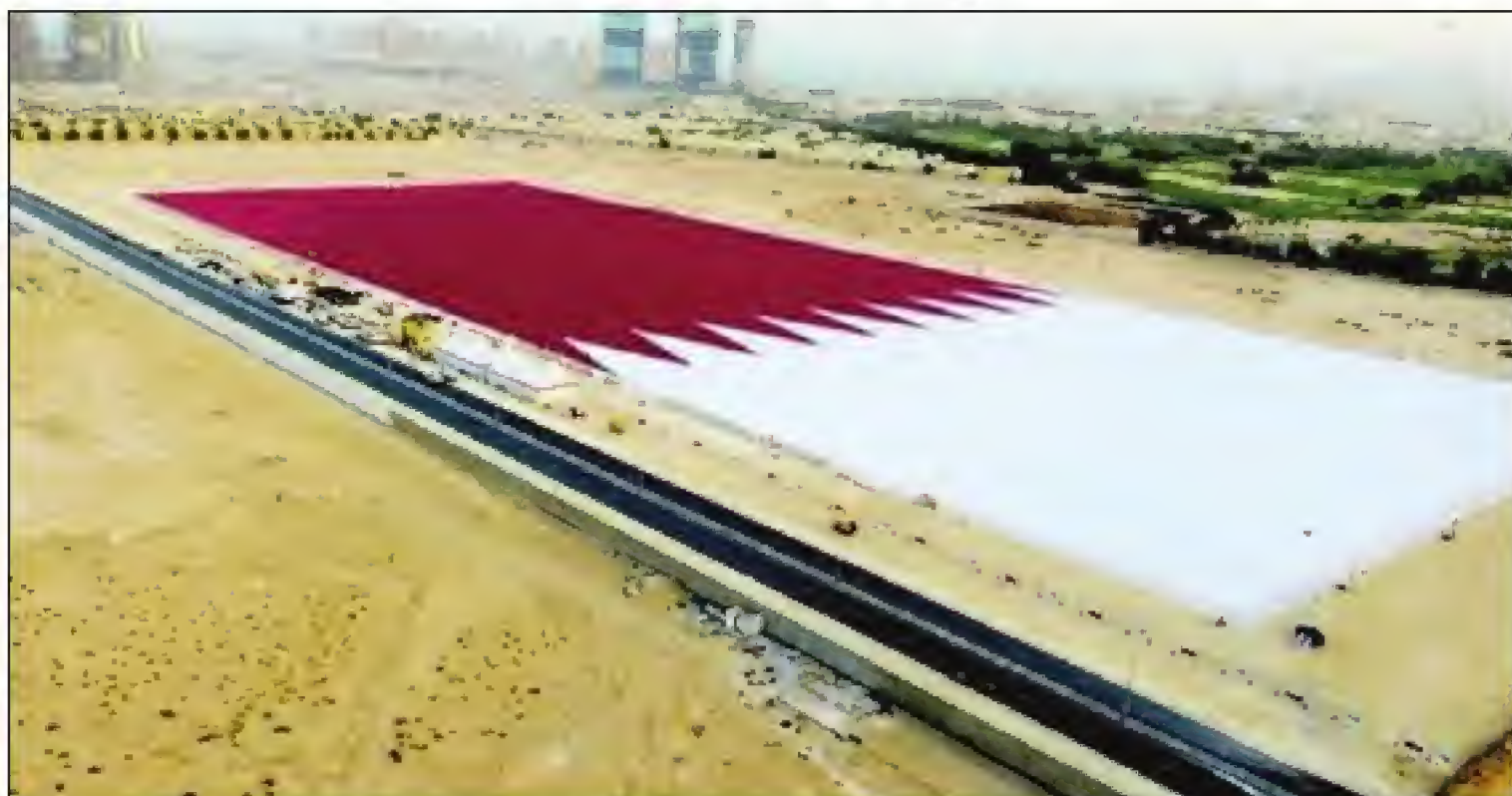
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Qatar unfurls 'world's largest flag' for national day



DOHA - The maroon and white flag has been draped over an area of 101,978 sq m - the size of 14 football pitches - in an industrial zone north of Doha.

It weighs 9.8 tonnes and was stitched from three plane-loads of material, according to the al-Sharq newspaper. After today's national day the flag will be recycled into 200,000 satchels for schoolchildren in 60 countries. The flag broke the record of 79,000 sq m, set in Romania in May. "This is a big challenge and one of the most difficult records I have seen," Marco Frigatti of Guinness World Records was quoted as saying.



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Six die in Brazil landslides

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Three children were among six people killed Tuesday in landslides triggered by torrential rain in the southeastern Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, firefighters said.

"There are six fatalities. The bodies of a child and three adults have been recovered," a fire brigade official said.

"When we tried to rescue the other two a new landslide prevented us from doing so."

Both of the final two victims were children.

Severe flooding last week in northeastern Brazil left 16 dead while days of heavy rain in Rio de Janeiro state left two people dead and some 2,000 families homeless.

US backs Philippines, warns China over air zone

MANILA (AFP) - US Secretary of State John Kerry warned China Tuesday against any move to declare an air defence zone in the South China Sea, as he affirmed defence ties with long-time ally the Philippines.

Kerry, in Manila for a two-day visit, criticised China for its declaration last month of an Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the East China Sea including over disputed islands.

He warned Beijing against any similar move in the South China Sea, where it has overlapping claims with several Asian countries including the Philippines.

Kerry also announced that

Washington had committed \$40 million to help the Philippines strengthen its sea defence capabilities.

The two sides are also in the final stages of hammering out a deal allowing more US troops, aircraft and ships to pass through the Philippines, where the last US bases closed in 1992.

The Philippines had said last month that Beijing's announcement of its ADIZ in the East China Sea raised the prospect of it doing the same in the South China Sea.

China claims almost all the South China Sea but the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have overlapping claims.

Azerbaijan seals deal to send gas to Europe

BAKU (AFP) - The consortium developing a huge Azerbaijani natural gas field signed on Tuesday a final investment deal that paves the way for the first deliveries to Europe, opening up a key route beyond Russia.

The Shah Deniz II consortium signed off on the final decision worth about \$28 billion (20 billion euros) of investment that triggers the start of construction of a key new pipeline route from the Caspian Sea to Europe.

Six billion cubic metres of natural gas will go to Turkey and Georgia from 2018 and

the rest will go to Europe from around 2019, according to the consortium which includes Britain's BP and Azerbaijan's SOCAR.

The move is seen as a key step towards European ambitions of reducing energy dependence on Russia.

"Today's agreement will change the energy map of Europe," Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said at the signing ceremony in the capital Baku.

"Azerbaijani gas can now reach the market that needs it the most."

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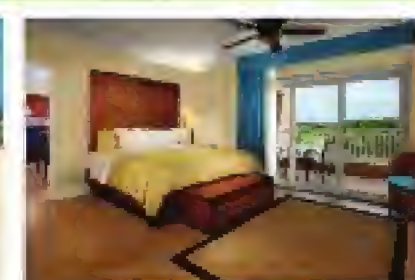
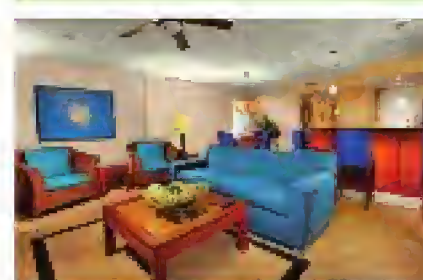
For more information about The Residences, visit our Sales Office located in the Golf Clubhouse at the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort. For questions or to schedule your appointment to view a condominium:

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AMENITIES:

- Shaded parking space with electrical outlet
- Complimentary shuttle to beach, restaurants, and the Alhambra Casino and Mall
- Membership with RCI vacation exchange program
- Complimentary use of fitness center
- Complimentary use of beach chairs
- Beach towels service
- 24/7 Security
- Garbage collection
- Green keeping
- Condo Liaison on duty
- Discounted green fees
- Complimentary use of driving range
- Preferred tee times
- Divi managed rental program

Snowden offers to help Brazil investigate NSA spying

BRASILIA (AFP) - US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden offered to help Brazil defeat US spying Tuesday but in an open letter said he needs permanent political asylum to do so.

The move was widely interpreted as a request for asylum in Brazil, including by the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper that published the letter in both English and Portuguese.

Snowden, by downloading a vast trove of classified documents while working as an intelligence contractor for the NSA, has revealed a vast NSA program that culls information from telephone calls and emails around the world, including in Brazil.

In the letter, he writes that US officials justify the actions by saying they aim "to keep you safe."

But he says "these programs were never about terrorism: they're about economic spying, social control, and diplomatic manipulation. They're about power." "Now, the whole world is listening back, and speaking out, too."

Snowden avoids directly re-

questing asylum from Brazil in the letter, but he notes that Brazilian senators "have asked for my assistance with their investigations of suspected crimes against Brazilian citizens."

Snowden says he is willing to help "wherever appropriate and lawful," but "unfortunately the United States government has worked very hard to limit my ability to do so."

Folha said his goal is in fact to come to Brazil. Glenn Greenwald, who has written about many of the documents released by Snowden, is based in Brazil. The Latin American country has a long tradition of granting asylum.

Greenwald's partner, Brazilian journalist David Miranda, began a campaign last month in support of an asylum request there.

"Brazil is one of the rare countries with the strength to give him asylum," Miranda told AFP Tuesday.

He said Snowden had written the letter in response to questions over why he was not co-operating with the Brazil probe.

But the Brazilian foreign

ministry told AFP Tuesday it had not "received any official request" for asylum from Snowden. In July, the ex-contractor had informally requested asylum from a number of countries, including Brazil, before Russia granted him a yearlong visa.

In the letter to Brazilians, Snowden praises the Brazil's fierce reaction to news it was among those the NSA spied on. President Dilma Rousseff canceled a visit to Washington in October after learning of it and helped sponsor a UN resolution aimed at protecting "online" human rights.

Rousseff's cell phone was monitored by the US surveillance program, as were the state oil company Petrobras and everyday Brazilian citizens.

Snowden's apparent bid for Brazil asylum was also quickly supported by rights group Avaaz.

"Snowden is now trapped alone in Russia on a short term visa. Brazil could offer him the hero's welcome he deserves," Avaaz director Michael Mohallam said in a statement seen by AFP.

Pope invites homeless for birthday breakfast



VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Francis invited four homeless people to mass and breakfast on his 77th birthday Tuesday, said Vatican radio, which played tango tunes by the Argentinian's favourite singer Carlos Gardel in his honour.

The pope hosted the breakfast at St Martha's Residence, the Vatican hotel where he has stayed since his election in March, spurning the more grandiose Apostolic Palace where leaders of the Catholic Church usually live.

The four homeless people were among the dozens who spend every night camped out around St Peter's Square.

Photographs released by the Vatican showed Francis speaking with three homeless men,

including one holding a dog.

Vatican staff and their families also attended, including the newly-appointed Secretary of State Pietro Parolin who wished the pope a happy birthday.

The Vatican said the event was "particularly friendly".

Francis, the first ever Latin American pope, had also been expected on Tuesday to meet with members of his favourite football team, San Lorenzo, who have come over after their championship victory in Argentina.

Francis has received several football teams since he became pope, including Lazio and AS Roma before their derby, as well as the Italian and Argentine national football teams before a friendly match.

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Surge in ADHD diagnoses gets a red flag

PARIS (AFP) - Doctors sounded a warning Tuesday over a rise in ADHD diagnoses, saying some children may be needlessly taking powerful drugs intended to correct a poorly understood disorder.

Writing in the British Medical Journal (BMJ), the researchers noted treatment for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) had risen massively in recent years, even though its causes are unclear and drugs can have adverse effects.

ADHD is a disorder blamed for severe and frequent bouts of inattention, hyperactivity or impulsivity. Children and young adolescents are those who are most diagnosed with it.

But some experts fear the

term ADHD may "medicalise" problems related to a child's personality or maturity level, the effects of poor parenting or other home problems.

In Australia, prescriptions for the stimulant Ritalin and other ADHD drugs rose by 72 percent between 2000 and 2011, while in Britain and the Netherlands prescriptions roughly doubled between 2003 and 2008, said the paper.

According to the US National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), nearly one in 11 American children aged 13-18 and one in 25 adults are affected by ADHD.

The analysis noted that Ritalin and other drugs were meant to be used only for "severe" ADHD symptoms, which according to research data only occur among about 14 percent of children with the condition.

The study said the main ADHD drugs could have side effects like weight change, liver damage and dwelling on suicide. And the drugs' long-term impact, as a child moves into adulthood, remained unknown.

The study, led by Rae Thomas at the Centre for Research in Evidence-Based Practice at Australia's Bond University, did not dispute the existence of ADHD as a medical condition.

It noted that children who genuinely had a severe form of it ran the risk of failure at school and of social rejection.

But it called on doctors to follow a six-step programme of "watchful waiting" over 10 weeks to confirm that a child really did need help.

Repeated high doses of the substance released a neurochemical brake in the brain, boosting levels of the "pleasure" chemical called dopamine.

Two insecticides a risk for human nervous system: EU

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The EU warned that two widely used insecticides, one of which has been implicated in catastrophic bee population decline, may pose a risk to human health by harming brain development.

The neonicotinoid insecticides acetamiprid and imidacloprid "may affect the developing human nervous system," the European Food Safety Authority said.

This marked the first time such a link has been made with the neonicotinoid family of pesticides, three of which the European Union restricted earlier this year on concerns they were causing a dramatic fall in bee numbers and so threatened food crop pollination.

EFSA experts wanted "some guidance levels for acceptable exposure ... to be lowered while further research is carried out to provide more reliable data on developmental neurotoxicity (DNT)," it said.

The findings were based on recent research and existing

data on "the potential of acetamiprid and imidacloprid to damage the developing human nervous system -- in particular the brain."

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, said it noted the EFSA findings which it will onpass for comment to the manufacturers concerned - German giant Bayer for imidacloprid and Nisso Chemical of Japan for acetamiprid.

Critics were not necessarily totally reassured but did welcome the EFSA announcement.

"Reducing the thresholds is not necessarily the solution," said French Green MEP Michele Rivasi.

"We must also ask the question about the effects of the whole 'cocktail' and the cumulative impact over time following repeated exposure," Rivasi said.

At the same time, it was at least positive that the EFSA, often criticised for not acting forcefully enough, had taken this stand, she said.

In May, the EU restricted for two years the use of imidacloprid -- cited in Tuesday's action -- and clothianidin, both produced by Bayer, along with thiamethoxam made by its Swiss peer Syngenta, citing the threat to bees.

In July, it restricted the use of another insecticide from a different class, fipronil, made by Germany's BASF, for similar reasons.

Bee numbers have slumped in Europe and the United States in recent years due to a mysterious plague dubbed colony collapse disorder (CCD), sparking concerns crop pollination and thus food production could be put dangerously at risk.

It is estimated bees account for some 80 percent of plant pollination by insects and are absolutely crucial for fruit production.

The companies involved insist that their products are not at fault and Syngenta and Bayer said in August they would take legal action against Brussels.

15 MINUTE
ENGLISH
LIFESTYLE &
NEWS SHOW

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Is underarm odour making your life a misery?

Yes, Underarm odor can be embarrassing. What's more, it can cause problems in social and professional relationships. Some scientists believe that long ago, underarm odor helped attract humans to their mates. But obviously that any such attraction has vanished from our culture. Here are some tips to help prevent underarm odors.

1 - Try washing up in warm water and rinsing off in cool water as the cool water can get rid of all the soap.

2 - Shave your underarm frequently and make sure to use a good shaving cream which will not cause any side-effects to your skin.

3 - Use some lotion to prevent drying of the skin.

4 - If you have dark underarms try using the lemon method (rub your underarm once a week with a slice of lime)

5 - Always use some fresh smelling deodorant/anti-perpirant.

6 - Take showers everyday and keep your body fresh.

Underarm odor can be your obstacle to your daily life. So use these tips and keep fresh All The Time!!!





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Jury mulls verdict in Ryan O'Neal painting trial



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A jury is considering its verdict in a trial pitting veteran actor Ryan O'Neal against his ex-lover Farrah Fawcett's old college, over an Warhol painting of the late "Charlie's Angels" star.

Former "Charlie's Angels" co-star Jaclyn Smith broke down in tears on the last day of testimony Monday after a two-week trial in Los Angeles, where Fawcett died in 2009.

"I think the most important thing would be imagining what Farrah would want," she said outside court, cited by the Los Angeles Times. "I really feel Farrah would want that portrait with Ryan."

The University of Texas, where Fawcett studied as a young woman, is suing O'Neal after the painting was spotted in the actor's home during an episode of reality TV show "Ryan and Tatum: The O'Neals."

The university says Fawcett bequeathed all her artwork to her alma mater when she died, and it insists the Warhol painting should be displayed in a museum next to a near-identical portrait of the late actress.

O'Neal's lawyers say Warhol gave one portrait to Fawcett and the other to O'Neal.

Defending himself during the trial, the 73-year-old said the portrait belonged to him, but he had left it at her home because his new girlfriend "was uncomfortable with Farrah

staring at her" from the wall at his own home.

He said he removed the work from Fawcett's Wilshire Boulevard condominium shortly after she died of cancer on June 25, 2009 -- the same day as pop icon Michael Jackson -- aged 62.

O'Neal said he kept the portrait at his Malibu home from 1980 to 1993, but loaned it to Fawcett from time to time, to take to exhibitions with her own copy.

But that changed after Fawcett caught him with another woman, when she let herself into his home in 1997.

"She was hurt, she was in shock," he said, adding that he subsequently asked Fawcett to take the painting and keep it for him.

Fawcett was born in Texas and went to college there for three years, but left without graduating after being "discovered" and moving to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career.

But she remained loyal to her alma mater. "Farrah never forgot where she came from," the university's lawyer David Beck said when the trial opened on November 26.

While the university says the portrait is worth about \$12 million, O'Neal's lawyer Martin Singer estimated its value at just under \$1 million, adding: "The University of Texas should have been satisfied with what they got."

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Spend a fun evening with friends at Barney's



A few months ago, Palm Beach welcomed a cozy new place that offers good food, great prices and a uniquely warm, welcoming ambiance that makes patrons feel as if they are visiting with friends rather than just eating out. Even the name, "Barney's", which was inspired by Barney Rubble of the Flintstones, is an expression of the good humor of its owners and your hosts, Ron and Elina.

Ron and Elina have a very congenial division of labor; he enjoys being bartender and playing around with his "cocktail of the day" while she sees to it that everyone is well satisfied with their meal.

Chef Jan is in the kitchen doing his magic; patrons praise their spicy Firecracker Shrimp appetizer and mushrooms stuffed with escargot, priced at around \$10.00 or the Smoked Trout Fillet for a real gourmet treat.

They are particularly popular for their "Build Your Own Barney Burger" using specially imported organic beef from Holland, guaranteed to have been raised without steroids or antibiotics, only for \$12.00 served with fries and coleslaw. Patrons are handed a special hamburger checklist, which features a full menu of toppings, sauces and cheeses to customize your order to create the ideal burger. One can also opt for a second or third hamburger patty for a very nominal cost.

High end items on the menu, such as the Seafood Pasta, are only \$22.50.

They also have a kid's menu with favorites such as a Kid's Burger, chicken fingers and Mac & Cheese; most items are only \$5. One regular described the place as particularly "kid-friendly," with Elina, a mother herself, having devised a number of methods

to keep young ones entertained.

The menu has a range to please patrons who are in the mood for something simple while other can be indulgent gourmands.

Tuesday through Saturday evenings they have specialty nights at bargain rates.

Tuesday is Schnitzel Night, with a choice of five different kinds of schnitzel with sauces and toppings, only \$17.50. *Wednesday is fresh grouper*, prepared any of our five ways, with veggies and side dish, \$19.50.

Thursday enjoy unlimited ribs done three ways, honey-smoked, BBQ, or HOT for \$19.50, served with salad, coleslaw and fries.

Saturday means Endless Steak Night, also served with salad, coleslaw and fries for \$19.50.

Friday evening ends the work week with Karaoke Night, a convivial and fun evening when islanders kick back and let loose their inner rock star.

Barney's is located just on the Palm Beach/Noord road, not far from the gas station.

They are open from 5:00 to 11:00 PM and closed on Mondays. Check out their full menu at <http://www.barneysaruba.com> or call 586-5420 for reservations and directions.

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NASA rolls out rocket for Thursday's ISS cargo launch

WASHINGTON (AFP) - With the space station cooling system hobbled and a commercial cargo launch waiting in the wings, NASA Tuesday prepared all options but said no decision had yet been made on whether spacewalk repairs would be needed.

Instead, Orbital Sciences rolled its Antares rocket out to the launch pad at Wallops Island, Virginia in preparation for a Thursday launch of its Cygnus supply ship at 9:19 pm.

Meanwhile, NASA television showed images of astronauts preparing their white spacesuits in case they are called upon to step outside the space station and repair the broken equipment cooling system.

On Wednesday of last week, NASA learned that a broken valve had interfered with the cooling loops that regulate the equipment temperature aboard the space station.

The six-man crew was never in danger due to the problem, NASA said.

If NASA decides that engineers on the ground have not been able to fix the ISS cooling system in a way that would be stable for the coming weeks, the Orbital launch would be delayed until next year.

The first of a series of spacewalks by the astronauts on board would then begin later this week.

The last time astronauts stepped out to replace a faulty ammonia pump was in 2010, and the repair took three spacewalks to complete.

Facebook adds video ads to News Feed

NEW YORK (AFP) - Facebook on Tuesday began serving up video ads that pop up and play when users check their news feeds.

The leading online social network said it is testing the new advertising technique this week with a clip teasing the new film "Divergent".

"Since September, we've been testing a way to make videos more engaging on Facebook, and as a result we've seen views, likes, shares and comments increase more than 10 percent," the California-based firm said in a blog post.

Video ads will play on mobile devices as well as when people visit Facebook from laptop or desktop computers.

On smartphones or tablets, video ads will be pre-loaded in



the background when in range of wireless hotspots to avoid the rich downloads eating into users telecom service data allowances, according to Facebook.

"Videos will begin to play as they appear onscreen - without sound - similar to how they behave when shared by friends or verified pages," Facebook said.

"If you don't want to watch

the video, you can simply scroll or swipe past it."

The clips could last for up to 15 seconds, and an advertiser wanting to reach all Facebook users aged between 18 and 54 might have to pay \$2 million per day.

"This news further confirms that Facebook has abandoned social marketing in favor of standard push-style ads," said Forrester analyst Nate Elliott.

Facebook, which like all free sites draws most of its income from advertising, reported in October that ad revenue in the third quarter rose 66 percent from a year earlier to \$1.8 billion.

The share of advertising income from connections by mobile devices to the network, watched closely by investors, accounts for 49 percent of the

total at Facebook.

Digital video ad spending in the US alone will top out at \$4.15 billion by the end of this year, according to figures released this month by industry tracker eMarketer.

Google's video-sharing venue YouTube is expected to reap slightly more than 20 percent of US online video ad spending this year, eMarketer said.

The television advertising market that Facebook is likely taking aim at with digital ads is huge, with \$66.35 billion spent on marketing messages there in the United States this year, it said.

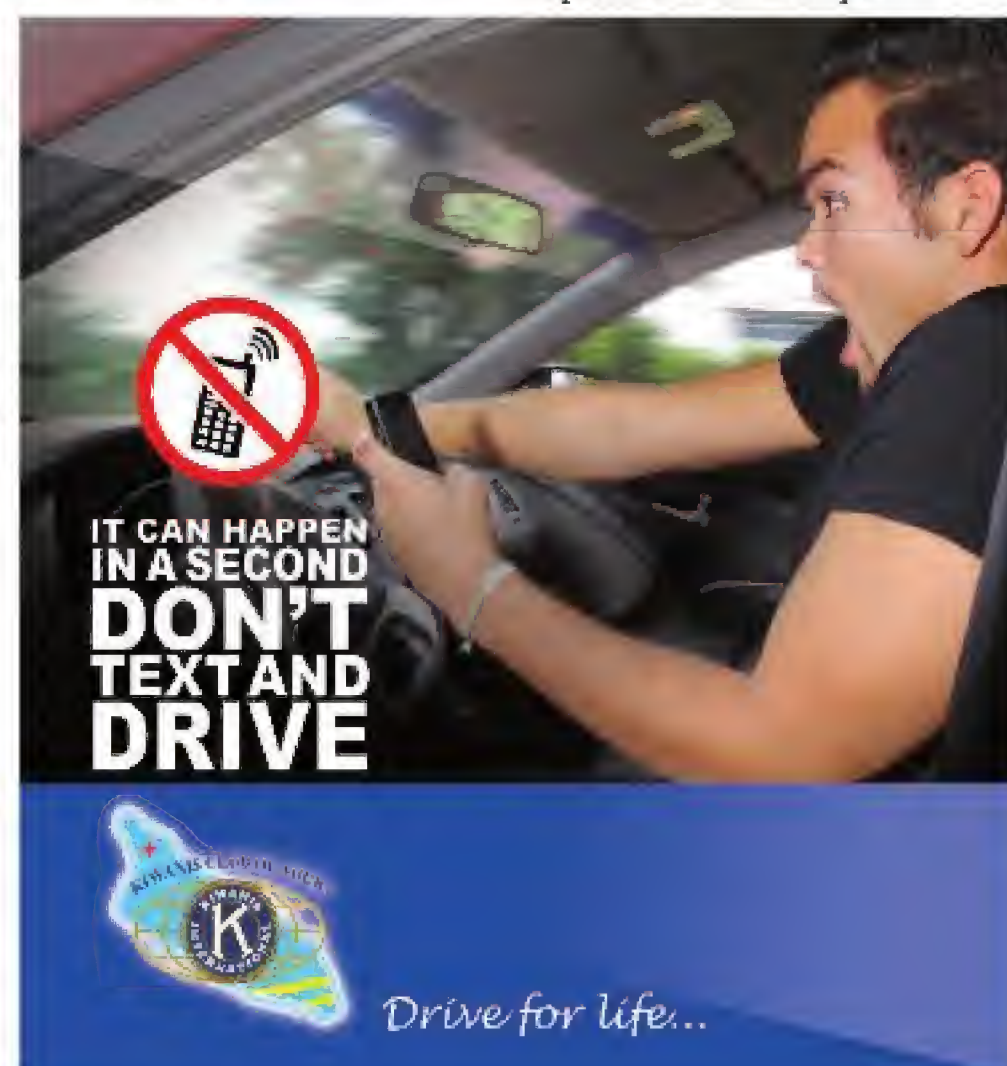
Ad spending next year on digital video formats is expected to increase to \$5.79 billion in the US, while TV ad spending is expected to rise to \$68.54 billion.

Startup Meta Challenges Google Glass With Sleek, \$3,000 Smart Glasses

In the hills of Portola Valley, Calif., a band of engineers and designers are creating the future. For the last several months, Meta has been developing augmented reality, 3D glasses that combine the power of a laptop and smartphone in a pair of thick Ray-Bans and a small pocket computer. CEO Meron Gribetz believes that physical



laptops, phones, and tablets will soon no longer be necessary. In an augmented reality environment, the world of physical objects is rendered virtually, and those virtual objects, such as a phone, drawing program, or tabletop game, are controlled by your hands. Similar to the movie portrayals of computing in "Iron Man" and "Avatar," you can touch and move 3D holograms directly with your hands in 3D space. Gribetz claims that within three to five years the capabilities of the 3D glasses can be shrunk into a contact lens and eventually inside the brain, implanted behind the optic nerve. A team of 40 people is packed into the main house working on everything from hand-tracking algorithms and custom silicon to glasses frames and apps.





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Saturday - Sunday

12:00 - 3 p.m.

Dinner

Monday - Sunday

6:00 - 11:00 p.m.

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Dutch Growth increases, but so does unemployment

THE HAGUE - The Netherlands is creeping out of recession, with growth of 0.5% forecast for 2014, the government's macro-economic planning agency CPB said on Tuesday.

However, unemployment is forecast to increase by 665,000 in 2014 to 7.5% of the population. Inflation is expected to be 1.5%, under the European norm of 2%.

The CPB says spending power will increase 1% next year due to lower taxes, health-care premiums and civil service pension premiums.

Nevertheless, households will spend less money. Household spending has dropped this year by 2% and will see a further 0.75% decline in 2014.

"2014 will be a year of economic recovery, stabilising unemployment, lower inflation and a slight improvement in the budget deficit," the CPB says.

Next year's budget deficit will be 3.3% is the forecast, above the eurozone norm of 3%. Despite the extra cuts of €6bn in spending, the government will spend €20bn more than it earns.

Dutch Bankruptcies reach record levels in 2013

THE HAGUE - There was a record number of bankruptcies in 2013, according to the bankruptcy website Faillissementsdossier.nl.

The website reports 12,800 bankruptcies in 2013, 6% more than in 2012.

However, there has been a drop in the number over the second half of the year. Preliminary figures for December show 781 companies went bankrupt, the lowest number since July 2011.

The website expects the downward trend to continue into 2014. "In many sectors, such as construction, the weakest have already gone," bankruptcy expert Antonie Kerstholt said.

Putin throws Ukraine \$15 bn lifeline, slashes gas price

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday gave Ukraine precious backing by agreeing to buy \$15 billion of its debt and slash its gas bill by a third as it battles mass protests over the rejection of a historic EU pact.

The deal brought tens of thousands of pro-EU protesters flocking to Independence Square in the heart of Kiev to denounce what they saw as a sell-out by Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich to the Kremlin.

The help from Russia may allow Kiev to stave off the threat of an imminent balance

World Bank raises \$52 bn for world's poorest

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The World Bank said Tuesday it had raised a record \$52 billion in fresh aid for its fund for helping the world's poorest people.

A coalition of 46 developed and developing countries made commitments for the funding for the Bank's International Development Association programs covering the three years from June 2014.

"The coalition agreed that increased funding was needed to tackle the toughest issues in fragile and conflict-affected states to help those countries tip the balance toward stabil-

ity," the Bank said.

With the funding the IDA will increase its focus on the most challenging areas, with particular attention on private-sector mobilization and climate change and gender equality projects.

It said the funding will help it provide electricity to serve 15-20 million people, vaccines for 200 million children, and microfinance loans for more than one million women.

"Some 32 million people will benefit from access to clean water and another 5.6 million from better sanitation facilities," it said.

Half of the \$49.3 billion funding for IDA projects over the past three years went to Africa, where 40 countries qualify for IDA assistance.

"We are deeply appreciative of the extraordinary efforts made by countries, many of which are facing their own economic challenges, to stretch to help the poorest," said World Bank President Jim Yong Kim in a statement.

"We are committed to making the most of every scarce development dollar to create new opportunities and bring about transformational change in the lives of poor people."

Canadian court greenlights Ecuadoran lawsuit against Chevron

OTTAWA (AFP) - Ecuadoran villagers can seek to enforce in Canada a multi-billion-dollar Ecuadoran judgment against Chevron for polluting the Amazonian rainforest, a Canadian court ruled Tuesday.

The Ontario Court of Appeal overturned a lower court decision that had quashed the villagers' attempt to seize the assets of a Chevron subsidiary as partial payment.

It gave Chevron 30 days to file a defense, in the latest twist in years of litigation over environmental damage in Ecuador's Amazon basin.

Chevron said in a statement that it was evaluating its next step, including possibly taking the fight over jurisdiction to Canada's Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, the two sides continue parallel legal fights in the United States and Brazil.

The villagers who brought the original lawsuit over decades of oil pollution in the

Amazon had asked the Ontario Superior Court to force Chevron to hand over Can\$12 billion (US\$11.3 billion) in Canadian assets held by subsidiaries.

The oil company has refused to pay, alleging fraud and bribery was used to obtain the ruling in Ecuador, and maintains its Canadian subsidiaries are wholly independent and have nothing to do with the case.

"If the Ecuadoran plaintiffs truly believed in the validity of the Ecuadoran judgment, they should seek enforcement in the United States, where (parent company) Chevron Corp. resides, rather than targeting assets of the company's subsidiaries that are not parties to the Ecuadoran litigation," Chevron said in a statement.

Under the original ruling, Chevron was ordered to pay a US\$9 billion fine for polluting the Amazon when the US oil company Texaco operated in Ecuador between 1964 and

1990.

Chevron acquired Texaco in 2001. The fine, later increased to US\$19 billion, was reduced by Ecuador's Supreme Court to US\$9.51 billion in November.

Thousands of villagers in the polluted area say they were sickened and say many have cancer from the contamination of their water supply from oil spillage.

Chevron contends that Texaco paid all of the required clean-up costs before exiting the country in the 1990s.

In his decision, Ontario Court of Appeal Justice James MacPherson said: "Even before the Ecuadoran judgment was released, Chevron, speaking through a spokesman, stated that Chevron intended to contest the judgment if Chevron lost."

"He said, 'We're going to fight this until hell freezes over. And then we'll fight it out on the ice.' Chevron's wish is granted," MacPherson said.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate Banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
12/17/2013				
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.70
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.94
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	202.03
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	247.34
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.62
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	33.39
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	29.49
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	174.66
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.				

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

• I L L	• V O L	• M U G
• M A O	• P R O F A N E	
• S I P	• S A U C I E R	
• O D E S	• C L A M	
• E A R N	• E S S	
• M A C H I N E R Y		
• L I V	• S P E D	
• I S I T	• T O E S	
• B L A N K E T	• U T E	
• R A T T I E R	• S T A	
• A Y E	• M E A T A N	

COMICS

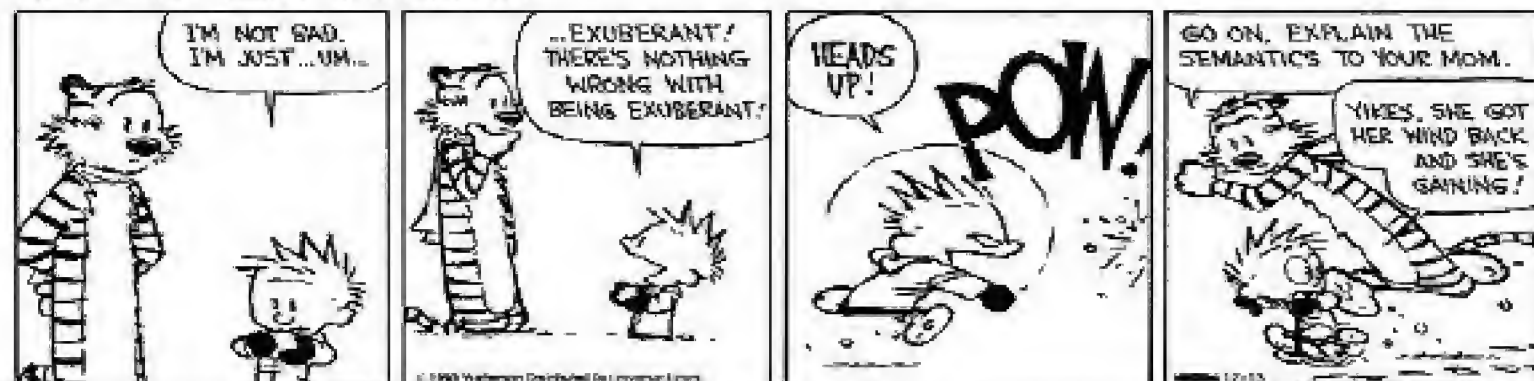
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- 1 ___ the line (obeyed the rules)
5 Work hard
10 Walk in water
11 Idolized
13 "One ___" (Patti Page hit, 2 wds.)
14 Lisa Bonet on "The Cosby Show"
15 Mayor's domain

DOWN

- 17 Blank space
18 Broker's unit
20 Farm storage spot
21 Monopoly rent-increaser
22 Adjusts a piano
23 Insecticide brand
24 Cheaper
25 "___ to Pieces" (2 wds.)

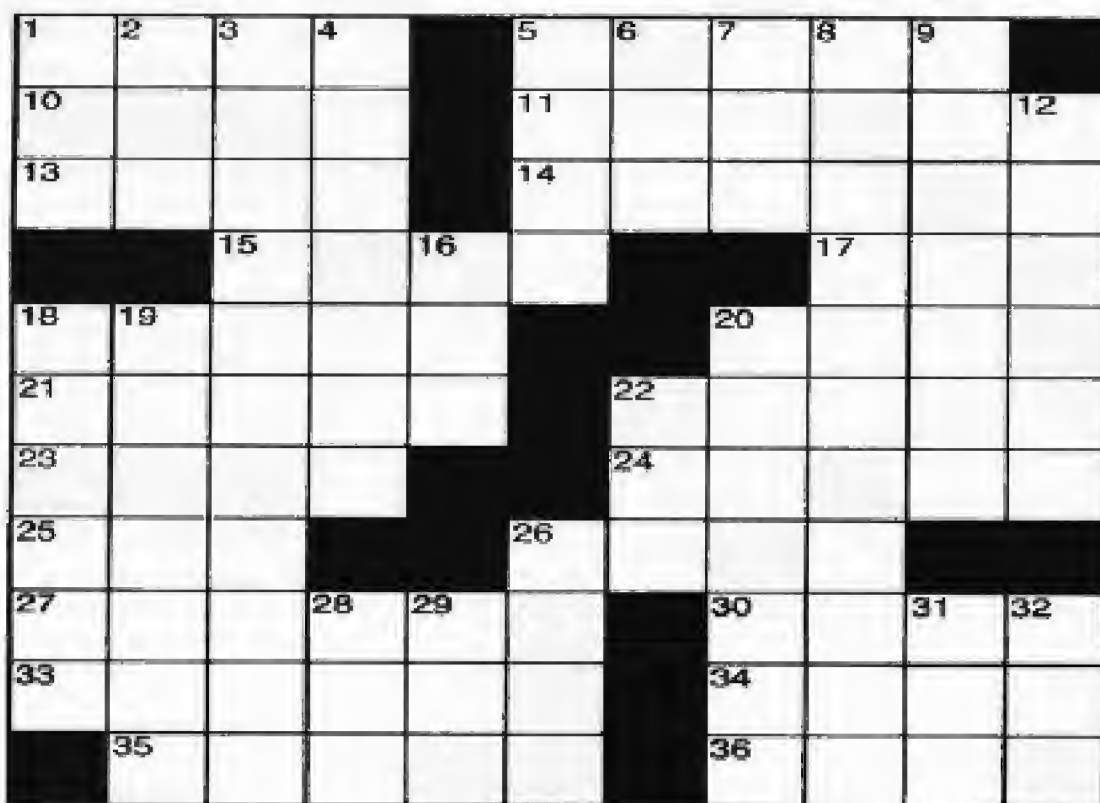
26 Survey

- 27 Some shower gifts
30 "Or ___ at long last love?" (2 wds.)
33 Exits
34 ___ Cooper (car)
35 Winter weather
36 Means justifiers, sometimes

DOWN
1 Couple

2 Lout

- 3 Like some PBS shows
4 Wanted
5 Disney dog
6 Citrus drink
7 ___ Ami
8 Adam's legacy? (2 wds.)
9 Thrift store transactions
12 Dethrone
16 Address bk. line
18 Strident
19 Submarines
20 Heavenly
22 Eastern "truth"
26 Attention-getting sound
28 WALL-E's love
29 Previously named
31 Unaffiliated voter (abbr.)
32 It is, to Keats



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Numbers

HOSPITAL

Horacio Oduber Hospital
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EMERGENCY

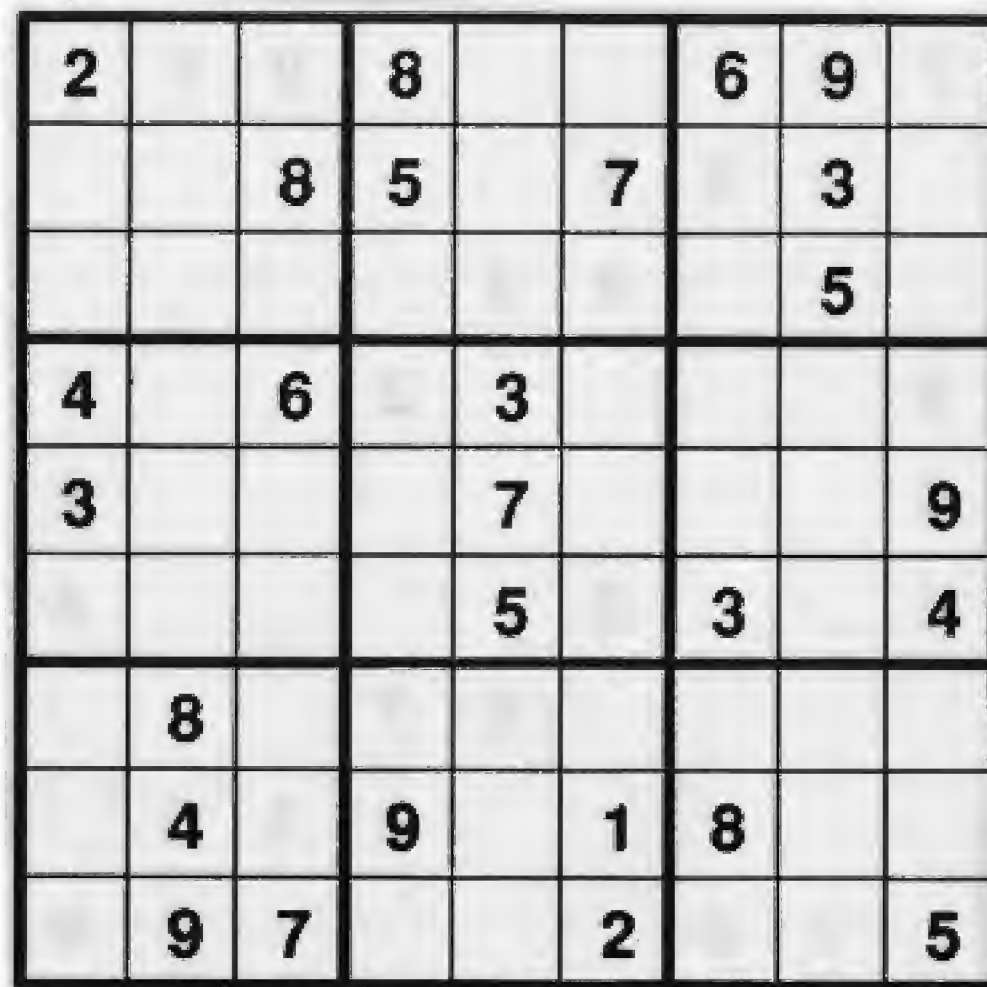
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SOLUTION

9	1	2	8	5	7	6	9	3
6	4	8	1	9	6	2	7	5
9	2	6	5	7	2	6	8	1
4	1	6	8	5	7	6	2	9
6	9	9	8	4	1	2	6	3
2	8	4	6	5	1	9	5	7
8	5	2	6	9	7	1	4	3
1	6	7	2	9	8	9	6	5
4	8	9	7	1	8	9	6	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the ac-



tion, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of

Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great

demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the

investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's



Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generation. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

queensaruba.com/. Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may no be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining.



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Football: Bayern brush past Guangzhou to reach world club final



AGADIR (AFP) - European champions Bayern Munich booked their place in the Club World Cup final with a comprehensive 3-0 win over Asian champions Guangzhou Evergrande in Tuesday's semi-final in Agadir.

Goals by France winger Franck Ribery, Croatia's Mario Mandzukic and Germany star Mario Goetze saw the German giants through to Saturday's final in Marrakech, Morocco.

"We totally dominated and

we wanted to reach the final to spare ourselves the third-place play-off," said Bayern captain Philipp Lahm.

Like wise, Ribery insisted Bayern did not come to north Africa to see the sights.

"We're in the final, we're professionals and we want to win in Morocco," he said.

Bayern will face the winners of Today's other semi-final between Morocco's Raja Casablanca and Brazil's Atletico Mineiro.

Already twice a winner of the Club World Cup title with his former club Barcelona, Bayern coach Pep Guardiola is on course for a third global crown as his German champions swept aside Marcello

Lippi's Guangzhou.

Having become the first German team to win the treble of European, Bundesliga and domestic cup titles, Bayern are closing in on their fifth title of 2013 having won UEFA's Super Cup by beating Chelsea in a penalty shoot-out in August.

But Guardiola made a point of praising predecessor Jupp Heynckes who coached the treble-winning team, breaking or equalling 25 Bundesliga records in the process.

"Jupp deserves to be here, to reach the final is a huge achievement, but you only get here by winning a lot of matches and some big tournaments," said Guardiola.

Lippi, World Cup winning coach with Italy in 2006, said that the many different roles Bayern's players could fill and that all of them were capable of scoring was a crucial difference.

Football: Ki sinks Chelsea in League Cup thriller



LONDON (AFP) - South Korea's Ki Sung-yueng stunned Chelsea as the Sunderland midfielder's first goal for the club sealed a shock 2-1 win in the League Cup quarter-finals, while Manchester City swept into the last four with a 3-1 victory at Leicester on Tuesday.

Gus Poyet's team had been on the verge of defeat at the

Stadium of Light after goal-line technology was used for the first time in the League Cup to give Chelsea the lead through Lee Cattermole's own goal in the opening minute of the second half.

But Fabio Borini equalised for the Premier League's bottom club in the 88th minute and Ki sent Sunderland

into the semi-finals with a cool finish two minutes from the end of extra-time.

It was Ki's first goal in 13 appearances for the Black Cats since his loan switch from Swansea, with whom he won the League Cup last season, in September.

Ki had never scored in English football since moving to Swansea from Celtic in 2012,

and this was his first club goal since he netted for the Scottish giants at Hibernian in February 2012.

It was a dispiriting night for Blues boss Jose Mourinho, who won the League Cup twice in his first spell in charge of the west London club but saw his fears about his shot-shy team confirmed during a lacklustre display.

Mourinho made eight changes following Saturday's 2-1 win over Crystal Palace.

It was the first time goal-line technology had been used in the League Cup, although the system was established in the Premier League at the start of this season.

Today, the other two quarter-finals see Tottenham host West Ham in the north London club's first match since the sacking of manager Andre Villas-Boas on Monday, while Manchester United travel to Stoke.

FOOTBALL BRIEFS:



MADRID (AFP) - La Liga leaders Barcelona comfortably secured their place in the last 16 of the Copa del Rey with a 3-0 win over third-tier Cartagena on Tuesday, to seal a 7-1 win on aggregate.



MADRID - Levante have secured their place in the last 16 of the Copa del Rey with a comfortable 4-1 aggregate victory over Recreativo de Huelva. The La Liga outfit won the second leg of their round-of-32 tie 4-0 at home to cancel out their 1-0 away defeat in the first leg earlier this month. Recreativo ended the contest with 10 men as Alvaro Vega was dismissed midway through the second half.



NANTES (AFP) Nantes' Romanian midfielder Banel Nicolita (L) vies with Auxerre's defender Karim Djellabi during the French League Cup round of sixteen football match between Nantes (L1) and Auxerre (L2) yesterday, at the La Beaujoire stadium in Nantes, western France. Nantes won 1-0

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NBA NEWS:

NEW YORK (AFP) - Joe Johnson drained 10 three-pointers in a 37-point effort that lifted Brooklyn to a 130-94 NBA victory over Philadelphia on Monday.

Johnson made eight of his three-pointers in the third quarter, matching the NBA record for most in a period set by Milwaukee's Michael Redd in 2002.

He poured in 29 points in the quarter, and sat out the fourth as the Nets had the game in hand.

Andray Blatche scored 20 points and Paul Pierce added 14 off the bench for the Nets.

Deron Williams and Alan Anderson added 13 points apiece and Williams added 13 assists.

James Anderson scored 17 points off the bench and Thad-



Andray Blatche #0 of the Brooklyn Nets and Elliot Williams #25 of the Philadelphia 76ers battle for the ball

deus Young added 14 for the 76ers, who lost their seventh straight.

Johnson's 10 three-pointers were the most in a game this season, surpassing the previous season-high of nine achieved by Houston's Jeremy Lin and Golden State's Stephen Curry.

While in Indianapolis - Josh Smith scored 30 points and Greg Monroe added 13 as the Detroit Pistons dealt the Indiana Pacers their first home defeat of the NBA season Monday, 101-96.

Indiana, winners of their first 11 home games this season, went into the game as one of just two teams without a defeat on their home court.

Now only the Thunder, 12-0 in Oklahoma City so far this campaign, remain unbeaten at home.

Monroe added 12 rebounds as the Pistons notched just their second victory in six games.

Brandon Jennings had 18 points and eight assists.

Pacers guard Lance Stephenson netted a career-

high 23 points with seven rebounds and six assists in the setback.

Paul George tallied 17 points with nine rebounds and Luis Scola scored 18 off the bench for Indiana.

Detroit led by 10 early in the fourth period before Scola netted six points in an 8-0 Pacers run that closed the gap to 89-87 with 4:55 remaining.

Smith ended the run with an alley-oop from Jennings, who drained a three-point shot for a five-point lead.

Stephenson's three-point shot with 1:17 to play again cut the Pacers' deficit to two points but Indiana couldn't get any closer.

Eastern Conference leaders Indiana will try to regroup before heading to Miami today for a clash with the two-time defending champion Heat.

And in Atlanta - Al Horford led six Hawks in double figures with 19 points and pulled down 11 rebounds as the Atlanta Hawks dealt the struggling Los Angeles Lakers another NBA defeat.

Kyle Korver scored all 11 of his points in the third quarter when the Hawks took control en route to a 114-100 victory.

Korver's big third quarter included three three-pointers as

he stretched his NBA record three-point streak to 94 games.

Jeff Teague recorded a double-double in the victory with 17 points and 10 assists. Paul Millsap chipped in 18 points, nine rebounds and four steals for the Hawks.

"I thought they came out much more aggressive, much more physical," Mike D'Antoni said of a Hawks team that trailed his Lakers 54-47 at halftime but out-scored the visitors 35-19 in the third period.

The Lakers fell to 1-4 since Kobe Bryant returned from a torn Achilles tendon.

Nick Young scored 23 points off the bench and Jordan Hill scored 21 points.

Pau Gasol contributed 16 points and 10 rebounds, but Bryant scored only eight points, making four of his 14 attempts from the field.

Asked if Bryant seemed fatigued in the second half, D'Antoni said that was to be expected as he continues to regain full fitness.

"I think that's going to happen," D'Antoni said. "That's where we have to do a better job of keeping the burden off him."

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Brazil minister slams football violence

BRASÍLIA (AFP) - Brazil Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo on Tuesday said the country should take a tougher line with football hooligans after last week's violent clashes at a top flight game between Atletico Paranaense and Vasco da Gama.

Both sides were fined and will have to play matches behind closed doors next season after shocking scenes which damaged Brazil's image six months before it hosts the World Cup.

That image has been further damaged by four construction worker deaths this year, the latest in Manaus last Saturday, at World Cup venues racing to be ready for the event.

"Whoever commits the kind of violence we saw (between Atletico and Vasco da Gama) should be detained forthwith. It constitutes attempted homicide," said Rebelo, who was attending an exhibition "Brazil, one country, one world," along with the legendary Pele.

Rebelo also said he opposed a decision by the Brazilian foot-



ball Confederation's sporting tribunal (STJD) to punish Sao Paulo club Portuguesa for fielding a banned player, Everton, in the final games of the season last week.

The STJD Monday ruled Portuguesa should be docked four points for the offence with Everton having been banned for a red card preceding the match.

As a result of the ruling, defending champions Fluminense were reprieved having finished in the final relegation place.

The drop for the reigning national champions would have been a first in Brazil.

Portuguesa have appealed but Rebelo said:

"What is normal is to decide championships on the field of play. Unfortunately, for motives which I shan't go into here, there was a mistake (by Portuguesa) and the ruling resulted in punishment for Portuguesa." But Rebelo noted the latter had appealed and therefore "the decision is not definitive."

One respected Brazilian commentator described the ruling as "a life sentence for stealing a loaf of bread."

Portuguesa chairman Manoel da Conceicao, was outraged at the tribunal's decision.

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